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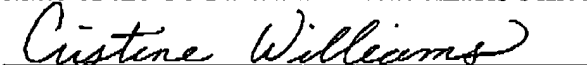
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FAX COVER LETTER

January 5, 2004

TO: Examiner Akers
COMPANY: USPTO
PHONE: 703-308-1113
FAX: 703-872-9327**FROM:** Steven C. Lieske
DIRECT DIAL: (612) 607-7508
EMAIL: SLieske@oppenheimer.com
RE: 09/550,583**COMMENTS:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to Examiner Akers of the US Patent and Trademark Office on January 5, 2004.

**Cristine Williams**

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Serial #: 09/550,583
In reply to Office action mailed: November 3, 2003
page 1 of 9

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial #: 09/550,583
Applicant: Silverstone et al.
Filed: April 17, 2000
Title: AN INFORMATION PORTAL IN A CONTRACT MANUFACTURING FRAMEWORK

TC/AU: 3624
Examiner: Geoffrey R. Akers
Docket #: 060021-358401
Customer #: 29,838

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Cristine Williams
Name: Cristine Williams

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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AMENDMENT

In response to the Office action mailed November 3, 2003, please find the following sections:

Section	Starting on Page
Amendments to the Claims as reflected by a Listing of Claims	2
Remarks/Arguments	8